

TURTLE

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge: Newport

Project: Brunswick GA

DAILY REPORT

Date 01 / 03 / 00 Load Numbers 150-155

Area(s) Worked stn - 24+00 to -34+00

Weather Conditions (incl. sea conditions) winds N to SE @ 2-12 kts, seas calm skies clear-hazy

Range of Water Temp., Surface 51-54° F Below Mid-Depth _____

Condition and Effectiveness of Screening Good

Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species?

YES

NO

Comments (details of turtle takes or whale sightings, dredged material, screening, biological by-catch, etc.):

Dredged material consist of silt/mud and sand.

Biological specimens retained by screening included: whelks, whelk egg cases, sea pork, horseshoe crabs, sea whip coral, blue crab, eel sea grasses.

Abiotic materials retained include: plastics, wood rope.

* Rear flippers (connected) dredged up and found in port inflow.

Load #152

Cuticle intact on flippers. Bones connected appeared sandblasted.

Muscle tissue is pink - no dripping blood. Specimen frozen.

Observers estimate that the death occurred within previous 24 hrs.

Approximately 13 shrimp trawlers working in and around channel previous few days.

Bridge Watch Summary

Species	# of Animals	Time / Location / Comments
<i>Tursiops truncatus</i>	2 adults	12:05 1/2 way b/w buoy 6+8 on shoal
Red jellies	100+	14:35 @ dump site.

Observer(s) on duty Markinson M Piercy

ENDANGERED SPECIES OBSERVER PROGRAM

Dredge: NewportProject: St. Simons Channel, Brunswick, GAWEEKLY SUMMARYDates 1/13/00 - 1/19/00 Load Numbers 150 - 202Range of Water Temp., Surface 51° - 56.5°F Below Mid-DepthAreas Worked (lat/longs, stations) Stn: 24° 40' to 34° 00', 34° 00' to 40° 00', 16° 75' to 19° 50', 15° 00' to 23° 00', 34° 00' to 38° 00'Are there incidents involving endangered or protected species? YES NO

Comments (turtle takes, whale sightings, effectiveness of screening, by-catch, material, other info):

There were 3 incidents involving 2 Loggerhead sea turtles:

- (1) - 1/3/00: The rear flippers of a (probably juvenile) *Caretta caretta* were found in the port foreward inflow of load #152. This was a fresh kill.
- (2) - 1/4/00: Fragments of a *Caretta caretta* carapace were found in starboard forward inflow of load #163. These included 2 vertebral scutes with vertebrae and viscera and 2 pieces of costal scutes. These more than likely belong to the same turtle as the one found on 1/3/00 (given the presence of viscera).
- (3) - 1/5/00: The carcass of a subadult *Caretta caretta* was found in the forward port inflow of load #173. It was missing vertebral and costal scutes and was a fresh kill.

After the turtle take on 1/5/00, the dredge began work at Cedar Hammock, located inshore, in attempt to avoid more turtle takes while waiting for a cold front to move in. According to ACOE personnel, no turtles have been caught there in the past. Water temperatures appear to increase with the ebb tide and decrease with the flood tide (and have all along... I just thought it might be worth mentioning).

Other biological specimens retained included: Horseshoe crabs (lots), Blue crabs, whelks, whelk eggs, seapork, Horse conch, sea pork, shrimp, sea stars, scallops, sea whip, eel, flounder, jellies, small shark (dogfish?) and sea grass. Most specimens come from "offshore" while inshore specimens include mostly sea grass and Horseshoe crabs.

Bridge Watch Summary

Date	Various Species and Respective Number	Comments
1/13	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> - 2 adults on shoal	
1/14	Common Loon - 2 in winter plumage flying south between channel and disposal area.	
1/15	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> - 10 (fishing on shoal with Gannets, m/c pair + 1 w/ stumped dorsal fin)	
1/16	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> - 4 (2 near dump, 2 near Jekyll Island pier)	
1/17	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> - 4 (lots of thrashing, mother/calf pair present)	
1/18	<i>Tursiops truncatus</i> - 3 (between Jekyll Island pier and buoy 22)	

Observers on duty Meghan Piercy, Jan Mackinnon